



SPAWN[®]

TODD
MCFARLANE

JASON
SHAWN
ALEXANDER





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PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Spawn is thrown into a group of rough prisoners, but is swiftly taken to a dark room with the yard boss. Spawn at first seems weak, but he turns on him and his partner. He kills the leader and uses his partner, who is in fact, a demon, to begin to execute his plan. Later, Spawn is taken to a room where the federal agents threaten to torture him. He sees the mangled body halves of former prisoners and then is shown one of his former enemies...OvertKill.




THIS ONE
WAS SUPPOSED
TO HAVE BEEN
INDESTRUCTIBLE...
OR CLOSE TO
IT, I'VE BEEN
TOLD.


HOPEFULLY
THEY FIRED
EVERY LAST ENGINEER
WHO HELPED
DESIGN HIM. THAT'D
BE REASONABLE,
WOULDN'T IT?




BEFORE AL HAS A
CHANCE TO RESPOND,
HE'S BRUTALLY
ATTACKED.



FIRST THEY
CUFF HIM.
THEN THEY
CHAIN HIM.



AND FINALLY
THEY HOIST
HIM.

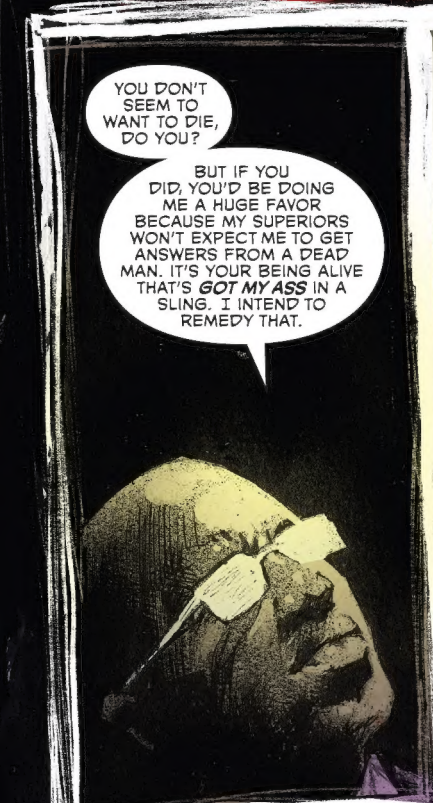


I'M TIRING
OF THIS GAME.
OBVIOUSLY, **YOU'RE NOT**
GOING TO GIVE ME WHAT
I WANT, AT LEAST NOT
NOW. BUT... I CAN MAKE
YOUR SILENCE HURT
JUST A BIT.





*Spawn Issue 285-Todd



BUT IF YOU DID, YOU'D BE DOING ME A HUGE FAVOR BECAUSE MY SUPERIORS WON'T EXPECT ME TO GET ANSWERS FROM A DEAD MAN. IT'S YOUR BEING ALIVE THAT'S *GOT MY ASS* IN A SLING. I INTEND TO REMEDY THAT.



ALRIGHT BOYS, YOU KNOW THE DRILL.







JUST A
FEW SIMPLE
ANSWERS AND
ALL THIS
STOPS.

C'MON.
I KNOW YOU
HAVE SOMETHING
TO SAY. DON'T
YOU?



I
THOUGHT
SO.

TONIGHT--
I'M COMING
FOR YOU.

YES.



YOU HEAR
THAT? BOSS
SAYS WE GET TO
HAVE OURSELVES
SOME FUN.

AND THEY DO. FOR
OVER TWENTY MINUTES
THEY PLY THEIR
'SPECIAL SKILLS.'



EVENTUALLY
DEEMING MASSIVE
CURRENTS OF
ELECTRICITY AS
THEIR NEXT LOGICAL
MOTIVATOR.

INCREASING
THE VOLTAGE IN
RAPID FASHION.



SOMETHING'S
WRONG. HE'S NOT
REACTING.



I'M GIVING
YOU
PERMISSION...

TAKE AS
LONG AS
YOU WANT
WITH HIM.



THE GROUND
SHAKES ABOVE AS
SIRENS ALERT ALL
ACTIVE DUTY.

BOM

THIS IS
GILMORE. I'VE GOT
A **CODE RED** DOWN
NEAR HALL G! **THERE'S
BEEN AN EXPLOSION** IN
THE GENESIS HOLDING
PEN. REQUEST
BACK-UP NOW!

ANYONE
ROAMING THESE
HALLS... **HOLD
THEM ALL FOR
QUESTIONING!**

DIDN'T THEY
JUST BRING
DOWN A NEW
PRISONER?

AS THEY APPROACH THE HANGING VICTIMS, SOMETHING BECOMES SHOCKINGLY CLEAR...

IT'S JOHNSON AND KAVANAUGH!
CUT THEM DOWN!

THEY
WERE ON
SECURITY DUTY
HANDLING THE
NEW PRISONER,
BUT I DON'T
SEE HIM!



MARC?

HOLY SHIT! JIM?!
HOW DID YOU...

I'M NOT
JIM.



BUT I'M
HOPING
YOU'RE MARC
ROSEN.

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND.

YOU DON'T
NEED TO. THAT'S
NOT WHY I'M HERE.
I READ YOU WERE
HELPING JIM
DOWNING.

HEY!

I SAW YOU
ON TV, DIDN'T I?
YOU LOOK JUST
LIKE JIM!

YOU'VE
GOT IT WRONG.
JIM LOOKS JUST
LIKE I DO.

SO...
THERE'S
MORE THAN
ONE OF
YOU?

NO. AND
WE CAN'T BOTH
EXIST AT THE
SAME TIME, BUT
THAT'S NOT WHY
I'M HERE.

A
COMA--
MY FRIEND'S
IN A COMA
RIGHT
NOW.

I KNOW.
I CAN HELP YOU
WITH THAT, BUT NOT
NOW. IF YOU WANT TO
HELP HIM THEN I NEED
YOU TO DO SOMETHING.
YOU USED TO BE A
JOURNALIST.

EVEN
BETTER.
DO YOU HAVE
A CONTACT
AT THE NEW
YORK TIMES?
SOMEONE
YOU CAN
TRUST?

MAYBE.

MAYBE ISN'T
GOOD ENOUGH. FIND
SOMEONE WITH CONTACTS
TO THE PRESS CORPS BRIEFINGS
IN D.C. TO ASK THE WHITE
HOUSE IF THEY'RE STILL HOLDING
THE GUY WHO KIDNAPPED
BONZ CHILLIN'.

I THINK WE'RE
GETTING WAY OUT
OF...

AND WHEN THEY
SAY THEY DO STILL HAVE
HIM, THEN ASK YOURSELF HOW
I CAN POSSIBLY BE STANDING
HERE WHEN THEY'RE SUPPOSEDLY
HOLDING ME IN A PRISON
SOMEPLACE.



...WHEN PRESSED TO CONFIRM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS MAINTAINING CUSTODY OF THE MAN WHO'D RECENTLY KIDNAPPED-- THEN RELEASED-- RAPPER BONZ CHILLIN', A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL'S INITIAL RESPONSE WAS THEIR STANDARD "FAKE NEWS" PUSH-BACK. BUT AS QUESTIONING CONTINUED, THE OFFICIAL EVENTUALLY SAID "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT DISCUSS DETAILS ABOUT ANY DETAINEE WHO IS DEEMED A THREAT."

THIS RESPONSE LED TO QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER THE DETAINEE WAS STILL IN CUSTODY, AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, OF THAT PERSON'S IDENTITY. FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS ALL OFFICIAL SOURCES HAVE AVOIDED THIS QUESTION. AT THE ROOT OF IT IS THE QUESTION, WHY WOULD THEY DEEM HIM 'A THREAT'?

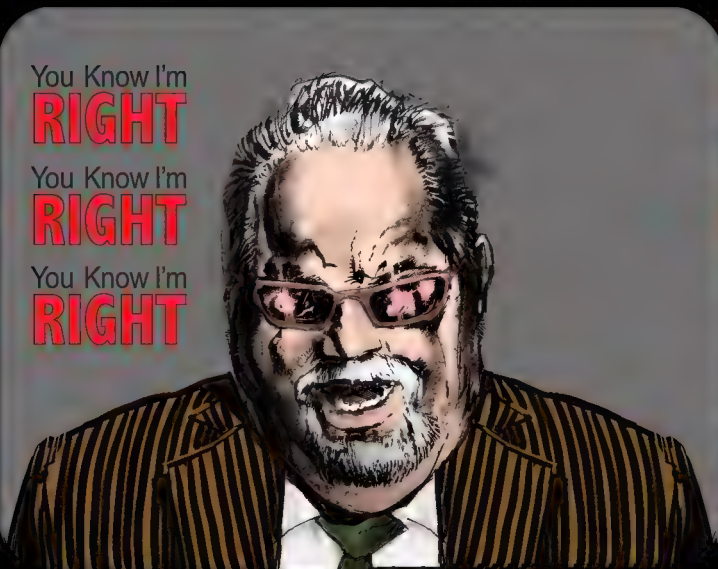
SOME MEMBERS OF THE SENATE ARE CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION. HOWEVER, INDICATIONS ARE THAT NO ONE INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT, NOR ANY INFORMED SOURCES, HAVE A CLUE AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE MASKED KIDNAPPER. NONE OF OUR ADMINISTRATION CONTACTS ARE PREPARED TO OFFER SPECULATION OFF THE RECORD.



AS FALLOUT FROM TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING CONTINUED, THE PRESIDENT AND HIS STAFF ARE **IRRITATED** THAT WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A NEWS CONFERENCE ABOUT THE LATEST 'ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET PACKAGE' QUICKLY TURNED INTO QUESTIONING ABOUT THE **MYSTERIOUS MAN** THAT WAS RECENTLY ARRESTED IN TIMES SQUARE.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON WAS UNABLE TO SAY DEFINITELY THAT THE MAN WE SAW BEING DETAINED WAS EVEN **STILL IN CUSTODY**. IT SEEMED LIKE A RELATIVELY SIMPLE AND UNIMPORTANT QUESTION AT FIRST, BUT SOON DEVOLVED INTO DOZENS OF **ADDITIONAL** INQUIRES TO WHY THEY WERE BEING SO COY WITH THEIR ANSWERS. THIS, IN TURN, HAS DEVELOPED INTO A WHOLE NEW SERIES OF QUESTIONS THAT THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS LIASON SEEMS TO BE **AVOIDING**.

SO FAR, WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO GET A RESPONSE FROM **BONZ CHILLIN' HIMSELF**, OR FROM HIS REPRESENTATIVES. SINCE BEING 'RETURNED' FROM HIS KIDNAPPING ORDEAL, THIS USUALLY VERY PUBLIC MUSICIAN HAS GONE INTO **SECLUSION**.



HOW MANY TIMES DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?!

WE WERE **SUPPOSED** TO BE LISTENING TO THE DETAILS OF HOW AMERICA WAS GOING TO IMPROVE ITS ROADS AND BRIDGES. INSTEAD, THE **MALICIOUS MEDIA** HAS TURNED IT INTO **ANOTHER** CHANCE TO SLING THEIR ARROWS AT **THIS ADMINISTRATION!**

WHO CARES IF THEY'VE DETAINED THIS KIDNAPPING THUG IN PRISON 'A' OR PRISON 'B'? WHAT MATTERS IS THAT **ANOTHER CRIMINAL HAS BEEN TAKEN OFF THE STREETS!** BUT I GUESS THE OBSSIVE SO-CALLED NEWS OUTLETS ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT FINDING FLAWS EVERY TIME THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PEOPLE **STAND UP FOR SOMETHING!**

WELL.... **HERE'S A PLAN!** WHY DOESN'T OUR GOVERNMENT TAKE ALL THESE GANGSTERS AND HEAD BANGERS THAT ARE BEHIND BARS AND PUT THEM TO WORK?! **HARD PHYSICAL LABOR!** THINK ABOUT IT! WHAT IF WE COULD GET THEM TO DO MOST OF THE WORK BUILDING OUR ROADS AND OUR BRIDGES? THEN WE COULD HAVE **NEW AND SAFE TRANSIT** AND IT WOULD COST US TAXPAYERS **NOTHING!** I'M TALKING **FREE!** WE'RE ALREADY GIVING THE CROOKS ROOM AND BOARD; SO WHY CAN'T WE GET SOMETHING IN RETURN FOR IT?!

DID YOU SEE
WHAT HAPPENED
AT TODAY'S PRESS
CONFERENCE?
GODDAMN PRESS
WENT *WILD*. HOW *THE
F*CK* DID THAT TIMES
REPORTER EVEN
KNOW TO ASK THOSE
QUESTIONS?

WE'VE
NEVER HAD
A LEAK AT
OUR END
BEFORE.

NEVER.

WE HAVE
A COUPLE
AGENTS TAILING
THE REPORTER
ALREADY.

BUT WE BOTH
KNOW THE MEDIA WON'T
LET GO OF THIS. ESPECIALLY
IF WE CAN'T GIVE THEM ANYTHING
BUT VERBAL ASSURANCES. AND
THE INTERNET IS STARTING TO
MAKE THIS GUY A *MARTYR* OR
SOMETHING, WHICH WILL JUST
MAKE THINGS HARDER TO
CONTROL.

I'M
BETTING
YOUR
DIRECTIVE IS
THE SAME
AS MINE.

IT IS.
THEN YOU KNOW
WHAT WE NEED TO
DO NEXT?

I DON'T
KNOW
IF WE'RE
THERE
YET.

AND I HAVE
TO TELL YOU, I'M NOT
WILLING TO PUT MY NECK
ON THE LINE FOR THESE
HUMANS. ARE YOU?

NO.

DIDN'T
THINK SO. I'LL
MAKE THE
CALL THEN.

WHY
DO YOU THINK
SPAWN'S TAUNTING
US?

WE KILLED HIS
WIFE. DID THEY THINK
HE WAS GOING TO JUST
IGNORE THAT?

I
WOULDN'T.

WE'RE NOT THERE
YET? ARE YOU PAYING
ATTENTION? THIS SPAWN DOESN'T
CARE ABOUT HOW THINGS ARE SUPPOSED
TO BE DONE OR WHAT RULES HEAVEN OR
HELL WANT HIM TO PLAY BY. HE'S GONE
PUBLIC IN A BIG WAY! HE'LL EXPOSE ALL
OF US, EVERYTHING WE'VE BUILT OVER
THE LAST CENTURY, JUST TO PROVE
WHATEVER POINT HE'S
TRYING TO MAKE.

THE PRISON FACILITY.
DEEP UNDERGROUND.

THE WHITE
HOUSE WANTS THIS
PLACE COMPLETELY
SEALED. THE PRESS
IS GOING TO TRY *EVERY*
TRICK THEY HAVE
ATTEMPTING TO PRY
SOMETHING OUT OF
US. THAT CAN'T
HAPPEN.

SO, AS FAR AS
EVERYONE KNOWS,
OUR PRISONER IS STILL HERE.
GOT IT! I DON'T GIVE A SHIT
WHAT THEY SAY THEY HAVE
OR WHAT THEY KNOW...
THEY'RE WRONG.

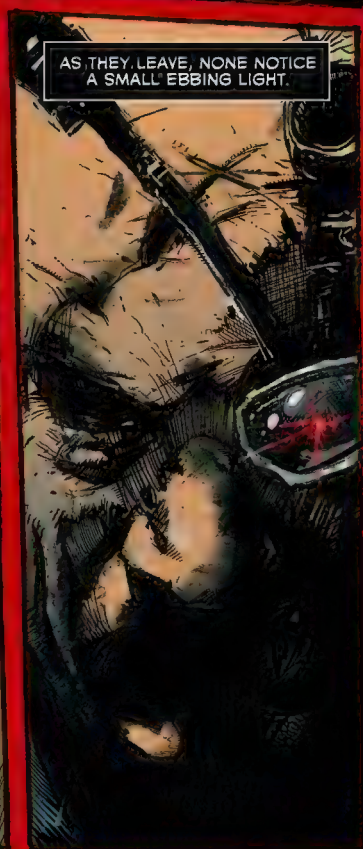
YOU'LL BE
TELLING THAT
NARRATIVE SO
OFTEN YOU'LL
BEGIN TO BELIEVE
IT YOURSELF.

WHAT
ABOUT THE
FILES?



DO YOU
EVEN HAVE TO
ASK?

AS THEY LEAVE, NONE NOTICE
A SMALL EBBING LIGHT.



2:07 A.M.



IT TAKES A MOMENT
FOR HIS EYES TO
ADJUST, BUT HE PRAYS
WHAT STANDS BEFORE
HIM ISN'T REAL.

WHAT DID
THEY PROMISE
YOU?





CASH?
POWER? A
LITTLE OF
BOTH?

IT WON'T LAST.
IT NEVER DOES,
BECAUSE THEY MAKE
SURE YOU'RE ALWAYS IN
NEED OF THEM LIKE A
DRUG. AND THE MORE
'ADDICTED' YOU GET,
THE EASIER THEY
CORRUPT YOU.

BUT NOT
YOU, RIGHT?
THEY'LL NEVER
CONTROL YOU--
YOU'RE TOO SMART
FOR THAT.
TOO MENTALLY
TOUGH.

AND YET
HERE YOU ARE,
STILL FOLLOWING
EVERY ORDER THEY GIVE
YOU. REGARDLESS OF
WHO IT HURTS.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

WHAT DO
I WANT? I WANT
TO DISRUPT THEM.
I WANT THEM TO PAY
FOR MURDERING
MY WIFE. SO, TELL
ME-- WHO'S
GIDEON?

YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
HIM?

NO. BUT
YOU JUST
CONFIRMED
HE'S REAL.



WHERE IS HE?

I'M NOT... SURE.

WHERE IS HE?

SILENCE FALLS OVER THE ROOM, SAVE FOR THE COOING OF TWO DOZEN BLACK BIRDS THAT SEEM TO ALL HAVE JUST EMERGED, SOMEHOW, FROM SPAWN'S CRIMSON CAPE.

SPAWN LEANS IN CLOSER AS THE MAN DECIDES WHO HE FEARS MORE: HIS ULTIMATE BOSS 'GIDEON', OR THIS SPECTRE NOW BEFORE HIM.

WHERE IS HE?!

I NEVER SPOKE WITH HIM DIRECTLY. HE HAD MESSENGERS! AND IT WON'T MATTER BECAUSE YOU'VE ESCAPED! YOU'RE FREE! YOU'VE SENT YOUR MESSAGE--I'M DEAD EITHER WAY!

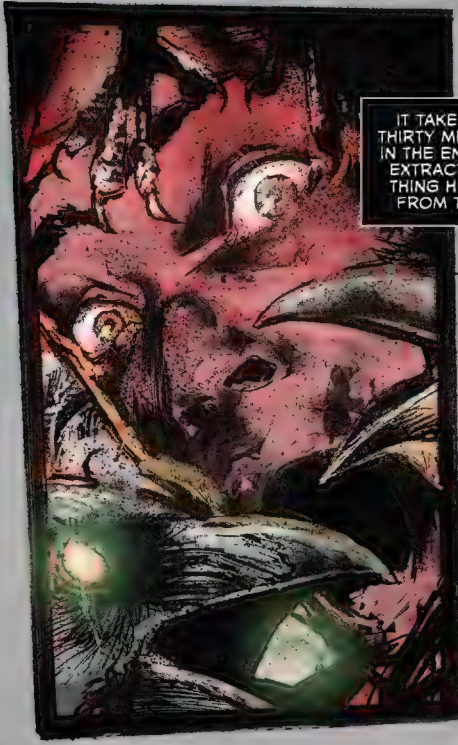
YOU'RE WRONG.



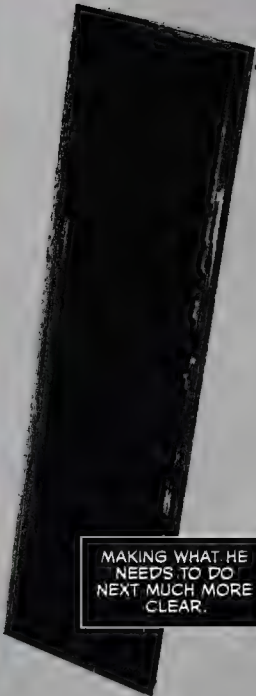
I HAVEN'T
BEGUN SENDING
MY
MESSAGE!



SPAWN COMMANDS HIS BIRDS.
SURGICALLY, THEY FOLLOW HIS
ORDERS TO INFLICT MAXIMUM PAIN AT
THE SLOWEST RATE POSSIBLE.



IT TAKES NEARLY
THIRTY MINUTES, BUT
IN THE END... SPAWN
EXTRACTS EVERY-
THING HE NEEDED
FROM THIS MAN.



MAKING WHAT HE
NEEDS TO DO
NEXT MUCH MORE
CLEAR.



AS SPAWN FADES BACK INTO THE DARKNESS, HE ALLOWS HIMSELF THE TINIEST HINT OF A SMILE. BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT IF HIS ENEMIES ARE CONFUSED NOW... HE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW THEY'LL REACT TO HIS NEXT MOVE.

IT'S EARLY, PRE-DAWN. BUT THE PRISON THAT HAD BEEN HOLDING SPAWN IS SLOWLY COMING TO LIFE. INMATES ABOVE BEGIN THEIR DAILY ROUTINES WHILE, BELOW, CLEANUP HAS BEGUN WHERE THE RECENT EXPLOSION OCCURRED.

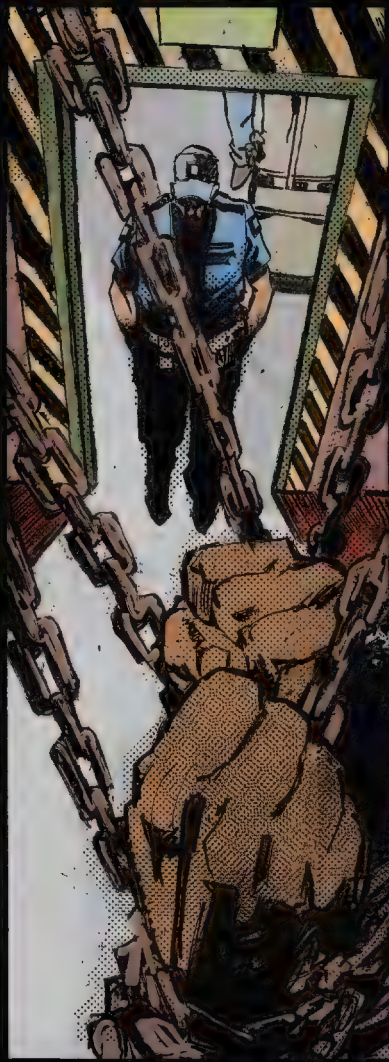


DID YOU SEE THE HIGHLIGHT TO THE YANKEES GAME LAST NIGHT?

NO, BECAUSE I HATE THE YANKEES.

THAT'S NOT HATE, THAT'S JEALOUSY.

YOU GUYS AREN'T GOING TO START THAT...



f*ck no.



GET
EVERYONE
DOWN HERE
NOW!

HE'S
BACK!

**HE'S
BACK!**

AND SOON THEY'LL
REALIZE THEY HAVE
ANOTHER PROBLEM...
OVERT-KILL
IS NOW MISSING!

SPAWNING GROUND

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MONTHLY CONTEST

WIN a 10 minute Skype call with Todd McFarlane and some COOL McFarlane toys and comics!

Each month readers will be giving a secret code word available ONLY in Spawning Ground.

Enter that code word HERE:

mcFarlane.com/spawningground for your chance to win awesome prizes!

Spawn issue #287 Code Word: **OVERTKILLSBACK**

Winners will be notified by email two weeks after the release of the comic.

Good Luck!

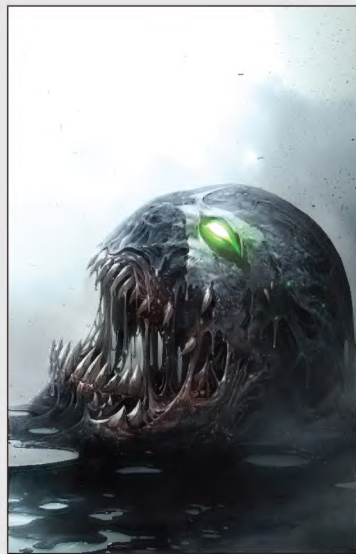
Thank you, as always, for being loyal fans of Spawn!

Shannon Bailey
Publishing Coordinator

A note from Spawn artist Jason Shawn Alexander:

A few days into the production of this issue I underwent rotator cuff surgery. I want to thank Todd (who graciously supplied inks to pages 11-12), Shannon, Jose, and the rest of the crew at TMP for being so amazing, patient, and helpful while pages were finished sporadically as I began recovery. It's their doing that this issue is in your hands on time. So, I just wanted to add a quick "thank you" to one of the best teams I've ever worked with in comics.

JASON



NEXT ISSUE

Spawn, the escaped felon, goes on national television to expose his enemies.



STAR TREK

THE NEXT GENERATION

MIRROR BROKEN

TRAVEL INTO THE DANGEROUS "MIRROR, MIRROR" ALTERNATE REALITY FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH THE NEXT GENERATION CREW!

SCOTT TIPTON, DAVID TIPTON (W) • J.K. WOODWARD (A) • GEORGE CALTSOUDAS (C)
FULL COLOR • 128 PAGES

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DEMON'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED.

Killed by his own men, Government Agent Al Simmons struck a deal with the devil, resurrecting him from the depths of hell. Returning to Earth he guards the forgotten alleys of New York City as the warrior Spawn, a hero unlike any other. Seeking answers about his past, Spawn grapples with the dark forces that returned him to earth, battling enemies and discovering unlikely allies.

Even though the doors of Heaven and Hell are now locked, there's enough evil on Earth to keep Spawn busy. But without his full powers, Spawn will have to find a way to fight his enemies without getting himself killed again in *Spawn: Hell on Earth*. Featuring the kinetic art and imaginative story-telling of Image Comics founders Todd McFarlane (*Spawn*, *Spider-Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*) and Erik Larsen (*Savage Dragon*, *Spider-Man*), as well as veteran *Spawn* artist Szymon Kudranski, this is one collection you don't want to miss!

The *Spawn: Hell on Earth* trade paperback collects 12 issues — a whole year's worth — of this fan-favorite story into one thick volume. All at a hard to beat price.



SPAWN: HELL ON EARTH
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